

Approved For Release 2001/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0084000

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

INTELLOFAX 14

DATE DISTR 20 Sep 51

SUBJECT North Korean Military Storage at Iwon

NO. OF PAGES

PLACE 25X1A

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO

25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. As of 5 April 1951, the Iwon Iron Mine (128-35, 40-13), which ceased operations immediately after the outbreak of the Korean war, was in use as a storage point for North Korean military supplies of all types, including ammunition, weapons, and clothing. It was rumored among residents of the area that most of the material came directly from the Soviet Union.
2. The mine has two entrances, both leading into the main tunnel, which is about four miles long. A tram car was operated in the tunnels, but in April all transport within the tunnels and from the entrances to other supply points was carried on by oxcart and by porters with A-frames.* All transport outside the mine moved only at night.
3. From the mine, material was sent to the Hamhung (127-32, 39-54) area by oxcart and porter at night over the following route: from the northern entrance of the mine, through the valley southwest of Iwon (128-36, 40-20) and Cholsan, through Haripsong-ni (128-31, 40-12), Pukch'ong (128-19, 40-15), Chung-ni (128-13, 40-15), Sop'o-ri (128-08, 40-07), and Uhung-ni (128-03, 40-04), to Hamhung.
4. Approximately 1,500 North Korean troops were stationed at the mine and in the immediate area. The mine, itself, however, was merely a storage point, and the headquarters of the transport unit which controlled it was northwest of Pukch'ong, in several tunnels in the mountain side.

25X1A * Comment. This is a wooden frame shaped like the letter A and worn on the back as a rack for carrying loads.

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Document No.	4
No Change in Class.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth:	HR 70-2
Date:	11-20-98

Approved For Release 2001/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0084000100057

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